



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 2**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, May 2, 2007

**Meeting Location:** Knox Community Center, Knox, IN., 46534

**Council Members Present:** Terrance K. Ciboch, Claudia Clark, Linda Gray, Sharon Mathew, Judge Michael Shurn, Magistrate Edward J. Nemeth, (proxy for Judge Mary R. Harper)

**Council Members Absent:** Larry Harris, Judge Jeryl Leach, Dr. Linda Rugg, Eileen Walters

**Others In Attendance:** Ron Fisher, Dan Graffenus, (Keys Counseling), Silvio Perez, (Keys Counseling), Jim Burns, (Family Focus), Jackie Agee, (Whites Family Services), Diana Dibkey, (Dunebrook), Desmond Williams, (Dunebrook), Louella Richey, (Porter Co. Director), James Shively, (Regional Child Welfare Services)

<h3><b>Meeting Minutes</b></h3>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** Regional Service Council meeting was called to order by acting Chairperson, Gilbert C. Smith, Regional Manager from Region #5, in lieu of a permanent Regional Manager for Region #2 at 5:34 p.m. (CST)/ 6:34 p.m. (EST)

1. It was noted that 5 Council members were present when the meeting was called to order, not enough to constitute a quorum.
2. March 7<sup>th</sup> minutes reviewed. No additions, no corrections however, minutes were tabled until next meeting due to the fact that a quorum was not present at the time of the review.
3. Reba James, present CPS Supervisor from Fulton County was introduced to the RSC as the new Regional Manager for Region #2. Official start date for Reba is May 14, 2007.
4. Meeting time and location. There was some discussion about changing the meeting time and location of the RSC to an earlier time in the day, also whether to keep the meetings on a rotation basis. It was decided to table this part of the agenda until the next RSC meeting.

5. Child Welfare Service Funding Programs, Family Focus (KIDS Program). There was a letter sent from Stephanie Beasley in Central Office dated March 9, 2007 stating that Region #2 had been allocated the amount of \$46,915.00. There is confusion about this funding and members felt that this letter is unclear and needs better clarification. Terrance Ciboch stated funding had already been sent however, the amount was \$2,300/\$2,800 less than the March letter had stated. Originally RSC had requested an additional \$396,000.00 in funding, in a letter drafted by former Regional Manager, Charlotte Richey, in January, 2007. These monies were earmarked for Family Focus (KIDS Program). Gilbert Smith felt with the confusion and uncertainty of these monies that this agenda item would be tabled until there is better clarification/knowledge. Terrance Ciboch went on record by hoping *that the percentage of money granted versus requested isn't disparaged when it comes to Region #2.*

6. Community Partners, Ad Hoc Committee Report. It was noted, at this time, that the Ad Hoc Committee has been unable to meet and there was nothing to report. Dunebrook Report. Desmond Williams reported to the Council that out of the six (6) counties in Region #2, there have been ninety-seven (97) total cases referred. Of that ninety-seven (97), five (5) refused services; and four (4) no contact has been made with the parties. All of the others are up and running. Desmond Williams also passed out a handout, "Community Partners For Child Safety Screen Report for Region #2 March and April, 2007".

**Referral Sources:**

LaPorte DCS	11	Newton DCS	1
Self-referrals	4	Starke DCS	0
Porter DCS	7	LP Courts	1
Pulaski DCS	4	Red Cross	2
Jasper DCS	3	PSUPP/PAT/HF	4

7. Old Business, Sex Offenders RFP. Bidding was received and RSC was working to make a decision as to what service to go with. A committee had been chosen; Ron Fisher, Laurel Myers, Louella Richey, and Regional Manager at the time Charlotte Richey, to review rewrites on proposals that had been received earlier. There were several areas that did not meet the RSC's expectations in delivery of services to clients needing treatment. The committee at one time had decided that Key's Counseling had delivered the best proposal and had responded to the things that the Committee had requested. There was concern by the Council that if we limited ourselves to one provider that some of the Counties would be left out because of distance and transportation problems. Among one or two counties there was some feeling that they wanted to go with who they wanted to go with, regardless what the Council did with this proposal. The last thing being, what is the potential number of referrals that could be expected from each County? Terrance Ciboch presented a handout to the Council indicating data from an

eighteen (18) month timeframe, 01/01/05 through 06/30/06, indicating average monthly referrals.

Jasper Co.	8
LaPorte Co.	5
Newton Co.	13
Porter Co.	16
Pulaski Co.	25
Starke Co.	3

This part of the agenda was tabled, pending further discussion.

8. Independent living funding; James Shively. We now have access to fiscal year 2007 funds which frees up another approximately two million, (\$2,000,000.00) dollars into the process. That will help for 2007/2008. The providers are in the process of catching up with their billing. In Region #2 we have spent about \$104,000.00/\$105,000.00 of part one money.

9. Gilbert Smith handed out a booklet. The State of Indiana is engaging in practice reforms new model, a way of doing business in Child Welfare. One of the ways of doing this is, we have started using a series of reports that are practice indicators, and are updated on a monthly basis. The reports are by Region and broken down by County. **First report:** Initial Assessment – Use of Substitute Care. Shows Statewide percent removal trended for March 2006 to March 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County.

**Second report:** CHINS Placements by County. Shows Statewide percentage breakdown for March 2006 to March 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Third report:** Locally Placed CHINS. Shows Statewide percent placed locally for March 2006 to March 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Fourth report:** Average Number of Placement Moves. Shows Statewide average number of placements for March 2006 thru 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Fifth report:** Sibling Placement Report.

Shows Statewide percent together for March 2006 to 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Sixth report:** Length of Stay in Out of Home Placement, Children in Out of Home Placement by Length of Time Since Latest Removal. Shows Statewide median length for March 2006 to 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Seventh report:** Finalized Adoption Rates and Reunification Rates.

Shows Statewide rated for March 2006 to March 2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County. **Eighth report:** Visitations and Contacts Report Average Visitations and Contacts per Child during the Report Month by County for March 2006 to 2007. Shows Statewide average visitations and contacts. Indicates information for Region #2 on average visitations and contacts, and then broken down for each County. **Ninth report:** Trended Repeat Maltreatment. Shows Statewide absence of repeat maltreatment for March 2006 to

2007. Indicates information for Region #2, and then broken down for each County.

10. Fingerprints. The State has now contracted with Pride Rock to do electronic fingerprints. They are now set up and have been actually doing some pilot work thru out the State for the past several months. This electronic system tells immediately if the print is a good one or a bad one eliminating any smudged prints. Longest response time for information from them has been 3 ½ hours. This means that we will have no big delays, will not have to deal with a paper trail, and not waiting for reports to come back from the State Police. They will be set up in every State Police district. Any/all prints that are required to be done by the State will be done by Pride Rock.

11. No Member Comments.

12. Terrance Ciboch posted a question on Practice Reform. *“If the family identifies a service need there needs to be a consensus, which everyone says, that this service needs to be provided”*. *“If they can’t pay for these services, will the State then pay for it”*? Gilbert Smith stated that **“there is a consultant that is assigned to Region #2, and that person can/will be brought to RSC meeting to answer those kinds of questions”**. Terrance Ciboch offered, *“Very soon we are going to be crafting budget”*. *“If this is going to have an impact next year, we need to be talking about this at a minimum next month”*.

13. No Community Comments.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55p.m. (CST)/7:55p.m. (EST)

Next meeting will be June 6, 2007 at Porter County DCS, 152 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN., 46383 at 5:30 p.m. (CST)/6:30 p.m. (EST)